



Documentation of the Simulation of the

Human Rights Council (HRC)*



Conference A

6 - 10 April 2025

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Human Rights Council (HRC)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies
2. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (In favor - Against - Abstention)
HRC/1/1	Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies	24 in favor, 5 against, 11 abstentions
HRC/1/2	Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies	26 in favor, 7 against, 7 abstentions
HRC/1/3	Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies	25 in favor, 6 against, 9 abstentions
HRC/1/4	Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies	26 in favor, 6 against, 8 abstentions
HRC/1/5	Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies	21 in favor, 10 against, 9 abstentions

Summary Report

The Human Rights Council held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies
2. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age

The session was attended by representatives of 47 Member States and 1 Observer. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of topic 1, followed by topic 2, beginning discussion on the topic of “Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies.”

By Monday, the Dais received a total of 6 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including the use of technology from both protesters and law enforcement, and details issues relating to privacy rights and state security. Delegates also proposed the implementation of a citizens panel that would work in collaboration with governments to address issues of public interest. Two of these proposals also focused on tailoring existing guidelines to extend protesters rights to the digital sphere and combining regional and international initiatives to form a comprehensive approach for accountability, transparency and de-escalation. The delegates had passionate discussions on the order of the topics and quickly formed working groups to effectively solve the first issue.

On Wednesday, 5 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had a friendly amendment. The committee adopted 5 resolutions following voting procedure, all by a recorded vote. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including existing guidelines on protecting human rights during protests, education and public awareness, the use of technology and its application during protests, and education for law enforcement, and other novel ideas. The committee entered negotiations and formed working groups swiftly following the adoption of the agenda. Each group proved to work effectively and efficiently and engaged in interactive discourse from all Member States to find common ground



Code: HRC/1/1

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies

The Human Rights Council,

Expressing appreciation for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and its utmost importance in setting the guidelines for the rights of people all over the world, more precisely, the right to protest and assemblies as set out in article 20,

Recognizing the valuable role and contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as affirmed in the General Assembly resolution 53/1440 (1998) “Declaration on Human Rights Defenders,” in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and acknowledging their contributions to fostering dialogue, raising awareness, and supporting the implementation of human rights obligations,

Acknowledging the need to promote education and awareness for civil engagement, according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), as enshrined in SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions),

Reaffirming the importance of empowering people through innovative, accessible, and inclusive educational tools online and offline in accord with the Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations (1948), the Human Rights Council resolution 53/L10 (2023) on the right to education and General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights resolution 17/4, which call for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all,

Encouraging constructive and peaceful engagement between civil society and governments to address root causes of protest and reduce tensions, as highlighted in Human Rights Council resolution 50/21 on civic space and participatory governance,

Recalling that states have the responsibility, including in the context of peaceful protests, to promote and protect human rights and to prevent human rights violations and abuses as stated in HRC resolution 56/10 on the “The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests” (2024), as a guiding force in the establishment of international norms concerning the right to protest and assemblies,

Emphasizing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1966) as well as General Comment, no.37 on article 21, stressing the need to uphold human rights in peaceful protests and assemblies, provided they do not potentially threaten state or national security and align with constitutional principles,

Guided by The Social Forum of the HRC, as instigated by the “Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights” resolution CN/2001/24 and seeking to expand upon the involvement of citizens, and promote the importance of a dialogue between civil society actors and Member States representatives,

Having considered existing database and related websites offering accessibility to United Nations-led documents and reporting portals such as the HRC’s Accountability Tracker, the OHCHR Submission Portal, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and “SpeakUp” lab by United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) and their role in facilitating the processes associated with citizen's ability to voice their concerns,

1. *Advises* Member States to organize a Citizen's Panel as a cooperative and safe space that promotes discussion between citizens representing the interests of their designated district or local electoral subdivision;
2. *Emphasize* the importance of NGOs and any independent civil societies recognized and approved by the designated Member State, public authority and government officials, academic, cultural, or legal experts, while reiterating the rights of citizens wishing to engage in all forms of protests and assemblies, further highlighting their importance by ensuring that the Citizen's Panel will not infringe on those rights;
3. *Invites* Member States to add an aspect to the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights that allows for citizens from each Member State to attend the panel discussions that take place during this forum and encourages the implementation through voluntary funding by Member States and NGOs as well as the organization of the panel by each government on the local, state, or national levels;
4. *Suggests* the incorporation of monitoring national protocols for individuals who are attending the panel to ensure the safety of all participants and the productivity of forums, especially by checking for:
 - a. Criminal records of major crimes as defined, put in place and if considered necessary by every Member State;
 - b. Serious cultural deviation and disruption of public order defined by the law of each Member State;
5. *Expresses* the need for a procedural framework around the Citizen's Panel to ensure equity in the representation of individuals within designated district or local electoral subdivision by implementing a state-appointed moderator, a rotating participation mechanism, and a quota of representation up to every Member State;
6. *Encourages* the creation of an interactive online platform by each voluntary Member States where citizens can submit feedback, raise concerns, or propose peaceful solutions related to protest movements, with a commitment from government officials to review and respond transparently with the help of a data dashboard and a response tracking system such as Implementing a database resembling that of the HRC's Accountability Tracker, facilitating reports to a platform similar to the OHCHR Submission Portal, UPR, "SpeakUp" lab by UNDP;
7. *Requests* multimedia campaigns to be put forward by Member States, similar to the approach of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the optic of informing citizens on their rights during civil engagement, expanding on:
 - a. The efforts of the OHCHR's Mission to promote constructive dialogue based on the various demands of each Member State;
 - b. The preservation and expansion of such efforts begun by the UPR and numerous treaty bodies which exist to coordinate discussion of the issues faced by every Member State;

- c. Utilizing media platforms to disseminate accurate and accessible information, including but not limited to pamphlets and public and informational announcement placards.



Code: HRC/1/2

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies

The Human Rights Council,

Recognizing the urgent need to safeguard human rights in peaceful protests and assemblies,

Recalling the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), specifically articles 19 and 20 and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1966), particularly articles 7 and 21 which all set forth the ideals of peace and prosperity for the freedom of assembly through protesting,

Further recalling the Human Rights Council (HRC) report 41/41 of the “Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association” (2019), which focuses on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association in the digital age, as well as General Assembly report 74/821 (2020) containing the Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, and its call for HRC to provide guidance on the implications of an evolving digital age on human rights challenges in preservation of the right to privacy,

Highlighting the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015), especially the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) which protects fundamental freedoms under national legislation and agreement,

Recognizing that the exercise of peaceful assembly must be balanced with the responsibilities of maintaining public order, concerns of external threats to national security, and the rights and freedoms of others,

Emphasizing the commitment enshrined in regional charters, such as the *Arab Charter on Human Rights* (2004), the *American Convention on Human Rights* (1969), the *European Convention on Human Rights* (1950), and the *African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples’ Rights* (1981), which promote unique culturally sensitive understandings of human rights and acknowledging the diversity of political, social, and cultural systems among Member States,

Calling attention to the *Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests* (A/HRC/55/60) (2023), which emphasizes the ability of Member States to create laws regulating peaceful protest that reflect unique cultural contexts and safety concerns,

Welcoming capacity-building efforts that equip law enforcement agencies to manage peaceful assemblies in accordance with international human rights standards and the national laws of the Member States,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 78/213 (2013) regarding the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies, which warns that certain applications of emerging digital technologies are not compatible with international human rights law and may lead to mass surveillance, including facial recognition, social media monitoring, and internet censorship,

Recognizing that the right to protest and peaceful assembly is closely linked to other human rights including freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and freedom of thought,

Acknowledging the importance of a multifaceted approach to the protection of the right to protest as outlined in the *United Nations Pact for the Future* (2024), whilst simultaneously respecting national sovereignty in order to ensure global political order,

Endorsing the creation of guidelines for best practices regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through negotiation between Member States, to ensure global stability and prevent socioeconomic differences which can threaten the right to peaceful protest and assembly,

Appreciating the expertise of the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (HRC Advisory Committee) in providing HRC with relevant research and implementation-oriented advice, such as its report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Stressing the impact of previous efforts by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, like HRC resolution 25/38 (2014), and the complementary effects which have been achieved by the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the field of human rights by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),

1. *Encourages* OHCHR, in collaboration with regional bodies including the Arab League, Organization of American States, Council of Europe, African Union, relevant Special Rapporteurs such as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, and civil society organizations, to facilitate the development, maintenance, and empowerment of international cooperation frameworks aimed at developing non-binding guidelines to safeguard the right to peaceful assembly with recognition and respect for cultural and national contexts, conditions, and capabilities in the context of regional agreements and conventions by:
 - a. Proposing, in consultation with the HRC Advisory Committee, a firm definition of what constitutes a digital protest and identifying what forms it may take across digital platforms;
 - b. Adopting a rights-based approach to the use of digital technologies during assemblies with the goal of minimizing disproportionate Member State responses to digital protests;
 - c. Respecting Member States' sovereignty by ensuring that their participation in the development guidelines is voluntary and inclusive;
2. *Welcomes* Member States to share their respective law enforcement best practices during peaceful protests and assemblies with a repository administered by the Human Rights Education and Training Database under the auspices of the OHCHR for voluntary references by Member States, with issues such as but not limited to:
 - a. A human rights-compliant use of technologies by law enforcement in the context of peaceful protest and assemblies;
 - b. Community-based programs based on de-escalation curricula implemented by the Member States departments of justice;
 - c. Capacity-building programs for law enforcement use of non-violent methods in managing peaceful assemblies in accordance with international standards such as the *UN Basic principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials*;

3. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to monitor advances in AI technology to explore potential applications in protest management, including the prediction of crowd size, density, and movement to ensure the safety of all involved, through means such as public-private partnerships to avoid violence in peaceful protest;
4. *Endorses* the creation of guidelines for best practices on the use of AI in the context of protests and assemblies through bilateral and regional negotiation between Member States, facilitated by the OHCHR, ensuring the promotion of culturally sensitive understandings of a right to protest, including and not limited to:
 - a. Working towards transparency in AI algorithms used for protest prediction and crowd management, with mechanisms for public accountability and independent audits;
 - b. Training law enforcement and civil servants in the ethical and proportionate use of AI tools during assemblies, emphasizing de-escalation and non-violence;
 - c. Prohibiting the misuse of AI for surveillance or repression of peaceful assemblies, including safeguards against targeting specific groups or suppressing dissent;
 - d. Promoting collaboration with civil society, national human rights institutions, and regional bodies to monitor and evaluate AI use in protest contexts;
 - e. Allowing flexibility for regional and cultural adaptation of these guidelines, ensuring sensitivity to differing legal traditions and political systems;
5. *Recommends* the addition of an appendix to the *Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests* by the Special Rapporteur which addresses:
 - a. The appropriate use of technologies by Member States in the context of protests and demonstrations, such as facial recognition, social media, non-lethal crowd dispersal technologies and control methods, and crowd monitoring technologies;
 - b. The organization of all existing and future thematic reports in the relevant OHCHR databases, with special attention to the subject's mentioned above;
6. *Encourages* the creation of the Recommendations for Effective Crowd Control Obstructing Riots and Destruction (RECCORD) program which entails the suggestion of body-worn cameras into the guidelines of the *Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests*, with the specific recommendations of:
 - a. Aiming to support the voluntary use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement during peaceful assembly;
 - b. Promoting the use of video evidence to record and prosecute instances of unlawful conduct of both law enforcement and protesters in peaceful assemblies;
 - c. Rebuilding public trust in law enforcement through a renewed mandate centered on accountability and transparency, supported by ongoing training in protest management;

- d. Utilizing the support of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the field of Human Rights by the OHCHR, and overseen by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association;
7. *Further requests* the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of association, to develop a Model Toolkit and Model Protocol for Assembly Organizers and Protest Participants on their responsibilities and rights, to be presented to the HRC at its sixty-second session, after consultation with actors such as but not limited to:
 - a. Member States, and national-level institutions, including practitioners, such as cyber security agencies;
 - b. Relevant entities of the United Nations Secretariat, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, like the OHCHR;
 - c. Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders;
8. *Decides* for the OHCHR to use the format of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to report on the actions Member States have taken to safeguard human rights in peaceful protests and assemblies based on their adherence to pertinent HRC guidance, with an emphasis on emergent technologies, requests that:
 - a. Such UPR chapters are compiled into a bespoke database for easy and free access;
 - b. Commensurate import be given to the necessity of support from local stakeholders, civil society, and state actors, due to the grassroots nature of peaceful protests and assemblies;
 - c. An equal degree of respect for state sovereignty in implementing HRC recommendations during these locally-conscious reviews;
9. *Suggests* that the General Assembly mandate OHCHR, in consultation with relevant civil society and non-governmental organizations, to create a composite Digital Accountability Index under a voluntary reporting-based framework to measure Member States' responsible use of digital technologies to:
 - a. Monitor the use of digital tools and ensure that Member States employ them in a way that is practical and consistent with their human rights obligations;
 - b. Promote transparency among Member States by allowing Member States to make non-personal data contributions voluntarily;
 - c. Invite willing Member States to conduct pilot studies to test the viability of collecting and compiling relevant data points necessary to prepare such reports;
 - d. Issue an annual report based on contributions from both Member States, non-governmental organizations, and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy that details Member States' scores and provides recommendations as to how Member States can strengthen their regulation of digital technologies and protection of human rights, thereby creating a repository of global best practices on practical and ethical applications of digital tools during peaceful protests;

- e. Guide the recommendations made to Member States in the Universal Periodic Review;
10. *Draws attention to* limiting the use of internet blackouts, social media bans, and bandwidth throttling in protest contexts, and urges Member States to avoid unnecessary digital measures that threaten to, or outright restrict, access to information necessary for peaceful assembly.



Code: HRC/1/3

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the importance of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, as enshrined in article 20 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), recognizing it as one of the most important political rights that enables individuals to participate in public debates and express their opinions collectively,

Bearing in mind that there should not be any restrictions on the freedom of assembly as pointed out in article 21 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1966) and the resolution 44/20 of the Human Rights Council (2020) restrictions on the freedom of assembly are only permissible when required by law, and recognizing the importance of preventing unlawful government interference, including excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests, and intimidation of protesters,

Encourages Member States to enact their obligation to uphold human rights limiting state interference to cases in which public order, public safety, and rights of others might be threatened while respecting the principle of proportionality since it is generally recognised under international human rights law and implied in art. 21 of the ICCPR and stated in the General Comment no. 37 by the Human Rights Committee adopted in 2020 and in resolution 44/20 of the Human Rights Council (2020),

Recalling the Model Protocol developed by former Special Rapporteur Clément Nyaletsossi Voule on the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, as presented in report 55/60 (2024), which provides detailed guidance and training resources for law enforcement officials on effectively facilitating peaceful protests and upholding human rights during assemblies and noting the supplementary report on the human rights-compliant use of digital technologies by law enforcement in the context of peaceful protests, published in 2024,

Recognizing international human rights standards related to peaceful protests, while upholding the principle of national sovereignty in accordance with Article 2 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which affirms that all Member States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, emphasizing that the right to freedom of peaceful assembly should not be misused in a manner that undermines the principle of domestic sovereignty,

Reaffirming the importance of General Assembly resolution 53/144 (1999) which outlines the vital role of individuals and groups in promoting other rights and freedoms stating that everyone has the right to promote and protect human rights individually and collectively,

Recalling the existence of the Human Rights Council resolution on peaceful assembly, such as the resolution 44/20 in 2020 reiterating the importance of the freedom of assembly stated in article 21 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966), highlighting the role of individuals and groups who monitor peaceful protests and are calling for accountability and welcoming the work of the UN Special Rapporteur inviting states to cooperate with their mandate,

Considering General Comment No. 37 of the Human Rights Committee (2020), which provides a comprehensive interpretation of the right to peaceful assembly under international law and outlines states' obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill this right, including in the context of modern challenges

recognizing the growing relevance of the digital sphere in enabling protests, particularly in light of the global rise in internet users (5.56 billion) and social media users (5.07 billion), this shift is also reflected in Human Rights Council resolution 44/20, which calls for the protection of digital spaces, and in resolution 50/17 (2022), which urges states to refrain from imposing unjustified restrictions on internet access and digital communications before, during, or after peaceful assemblies,

Acknowledging Human Rights Council's resolution 53/20 (2023), which highlights the importance of the Social Forum as a space for coordination and cooperation among Member States, offering a unique platform for open and constructive dialogue on human rights issues, emphasizing the need for inclusive participation, the resolution ensures that stakeholders — including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and grassroots movements — have the opportunity to share experiences and best practices, thereby reinforcing the global commitment to dialogue and collaboration in addressing human rights challenges,

1. *Requests* the creation of a Model Protocol on the rights and obligations on peaceful assemblies of individuals by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to:
 - a. Inform participants on how to stay safe, their human rights, and how both participants and organizers can enter into dialogue with law enforcement officials by;
 - i. Emphasizing legal rights and responsibilities of protesters, in respect of every Member State's legal framework;
 - ii. Ensuring individuals can use their freedom of speech online in the context of peaceful protest;
 - iii. Providing a template for peaceful assembly notifications;
 - iv. Creating a programme to inform of the possibility to submit information for the Special Procedures;
 - b. Invite authorities responsible for overseeing the protest to ensure that the demonstration organizers have access to the Model Protocol;
2. *Expresses support* for the implementation of specialized training programs for national law enforcement officials in accordance with human rights in collaboration with OHCHR, regional organs, and Member States by:
 - a. Focusing on an approach that respects the right to freedom of assembly according to article 20 of the *Universal Declaration of the Human Rights* (1948);
 - b. Prioritizing the use of de-escalating tactics and mechanisms, following the Model Protocol of former Special Rapporteur Clément Nyaletsossi on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association on the training of law enforcement (2024);
 - c. Encouraging to include training on monitoring human rights violations, also through utilizing modern technology, while considering each Member State's capacity and the right to privacy of individuals;
3. *Invites* Member States to establish international cooperation by sharing best practices on de-escalating tactics for crowd control through an annual meeting at the Social Forum of the

Human Rights Council, with dedicated platforms for regional subgroups;

4. *Welcomes* the willing Member States and the private sector, to partner with the OHCHR, in establishing a voluntary trust fund, aimed at assisting Member States in safeguarding human rights during peaceful protests by:
 - a. Informing individuals of their rights related to peaceful assembly and protest;
 - b. Inviting Member States to international cooperation at the annual meeting at the Social Forum by sharing best practices de-escalating tactics for crowd control;
 - c. Encouraging the implementation of the training programs for law enforcement and public officials on international human rights standards related to the freedom of peaceful assembly and the appropriate, proportionate use of force;
5. *Inviting* Member States to international cooperation at the annual meeting at the Social Forum by sharing best practices de-escalating tactics for crowd control;
6. *Encouraging* the implementation of the training programs for law enforcement and public officials on international human rights standards related to the freedom of peaceful assembly and the appropriate, proportionate use of force;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to protect the human right to peacefully protest and assemble, not only in the physical, but also in the digital landscape by providing access to internet and to online communications and strengthening efforts in the expansion of network coverage, with regard to each Member State's capacity;
8. *Further invites* Member States to promote a safe environment and participation for all in the digital space and a responsible use of technologies during protests through the implementation of national legislation, thereby ensuring legal certainty for protests held or organized online by:
 - a. Taking into account the dangers of digital platforms such as disinformation;
 - b. Following the best practices on the use of technologies by national law enforcement during peaceful assemblies, particularly following a human rights approach established by the former Special Rapporteur in the report supplementing the Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests (2024), by:
 - i. Ensuring the decisions are guided by the principles of national legality, necessity, and proportionality;
 - ii. Establishing an evidence-based authorization procedure that justifies the purpose and assesses the potential harm to all human rights and civic freedom;
 - iii. Guaranteeing transparency through clear documentation, public accessibility of decision making processes, and disclosure with third-party technology providers;
9. *Supports* the oversight of peaceful protests by independent observers to enhance responsibility of the Member States, while not interfering with Member State's sovereignty by:
 - a. Requesting the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association in

including a review of human rights violation complaints in peaceful protests in its annual report;

- b. Not interfering with the efforts of local and international NGOs and civil society organizations in observing peaceful protests and assemblies, as long as they abide by national legislation.



Code: HRC/1/4

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming our commitment to the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) and its tenets of human dignity, equality and freedom, keeping in mind the equal sovereignty of each Member State in accordance with Article 2 of the *Charter of the United Nations*,

Recognizing the efforts of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in advocating for the protection of the right to peacefully protest, such as supporting the projects, activities, organs and bodies of the human rights programme,

Recognizing the efforts of the United Nations High-level Committee on Management specifying the *Framework for a Model Policy on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in United Nations System Organizations* (2024), setting forth a standard for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) within the United Nations,

Addressing the acute importance of Special Rapporteurs as independent human rights experts and their ability to raise awareness through their mandate to report and advise on human rights issues,

Strongly reiterating the precedent set by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), especially article 5 outlawing cruel and unusual punishment, article 19 granting everyone the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and Article 20 guaranteeing the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association,

Respecting the importance of domestic standards set by regional conventions, such as the European Union Venice Commission, *International Rules and Standards for Policing* (2014) by the International Committee of the Red Cross, recognizing the relevance of regional bodies that facilitate dialogue between civil society, domestic governments and law enforcement, such as the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, giving Member States the opportunity to establish similar initiatives,

Recalling articles 21 and 22 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966), enshrining the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association into international law,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Principle as outlined in General Assembly resolution 60/1, the “World Summit Outcome” (2005), which implores the international community to intervene in instances of ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide—all of which intersect with protest dispersal, protest suppression, and the curtailment of social movements,

Supporting Sustainable Development Goal SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Recalling HRC resolution 44/20, “The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests” (2020), which calls upon states to promote a safe and enabling environment for individuals and

groups to exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, outlining also the duty to protect the right of assembly of all persons, specifically recognizing the importance of safeguarding women and children,

Acknowledging HRC resolution 39/11, “Equal participation in political and public affairs” (2018), which approves of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) guidelines for effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs,

Further taking into consideration HRC resolution 31/66, the “Joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions on the proper management of assemblies” (2016), setting standards of management and judicial process regarding peaceful assembly and of association,

Having considered the United Nations *Guidelines on Police Capacity-Building and Development* (2015), as well as the development of a culture of accountability within police forces,

Alarmed by the ongoing human rights abuses facilitated by law enforcement during protests and assemblies, for instance, as reported by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, the detention, and cruel and unusual punishment, of over 5,000 peaceful protesters in Russia as a reaction to the war in Ukraine in 2022,

Recognizing the vital observatory role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in safeguarding human rights in peaceful protests and assemblies, upholding the value of transparency,

Cognizant of the *Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials* (1990) that establishes law enforcement as a vital pillar of society and government, however, limits the use of the enforcement of law and order through violence by promoting the use of and setting standards for non-lethal weapons, discouraging arbitrary use of force, and restricting use of force to the absolute minimum even concerning the dispersal of assemblies that are unlawful but non-violent,

Acknowledging the relevance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Human Rights Due Diligence Policy* (2011) to support a human rights based approach in local and regional law enforcement agencies,

Concerned by the lack of extensive, uniform guidelines on the human rights of protesters on a global scale,

Underlining the necessity of protecting especially vulnerable groups during protests, such as racial minorities as mentioned in the General Assembly “Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests” HRC report 55/60, for instance women in Iran facing gender-based discrimination during the For Women, Life, Freedom protests,

Supporting dialogue between civil society and law enforcement through regional fora, taking an example from the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (2009), without impeding the right to peacefully protest but as a further channel for building understanding between society and government,

Reinforcing the importance of HRC resolution 35/33, “Technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai regions” (2017), which sets a precedent for governments to exercise maximum restraint when responding to election-related protests,

Recognizing the impact of new technologies on the promotion and protection of human rights, as stated in HRC resolution 44/24, “Impact of new technologies on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests” (2020), in the context of assemblies,

1. *Designates* the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to engage in a thematic report on the current environment of policing policy mandates worldwide, by reporting on the extent of militarized responses and the use of excessive force against protest movements, as well as on instances of states' invoking emergency laws to suppress the right of peaceful assembly in the name of national security, public order, and public safety;
2. *Decides* to establish a working group through the United Nations Human Rights Council Special Procedures on the issue of promoting rights in the context of peaceful protests and assemblies, consisting of four independent experts, deliberately sourced to maintain a balanced geographical representation, with a mandate to:
 - a. Identify, exchange, and promote localized solutions for interested states seeking assistance with policy and training regarding police protest response;
 - b. Work in cooperation with other relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council, such as the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, to better understand states' policy and training needs;
 - c. Conduct country visits upon invitation from states, engaging in both information-gathering missions and direct policy collaboration;
3. *Encourages* Member States to address their respective law enforcement agencies about taking a human rights-based approach to reacting to peaceful assembly by:
 - a. Recommending states hold their officials accountable to adhere to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Human Rights Due Diligence Policy* and to prioritize non-lethal means before resorting to force as a reaction to protests as stated in General Provision 4 of the United Nations *Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials*;
 - b. Encouraging that Member States' promote the training of their respective law enforcement agencies in ethics-based approaches to peaceful assembly by:
 - i. Urging the edification of de-escalation tactics within law enforcement to prevent unnecessary, disproportionate violence;
 - ii. Imploring an appropriate use of force by national police, in accordance with international standards, such as the ICCPR and the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;
 - iii. Preemptively facilitating peaceful protests through the assistance of regional crowd training initiatives;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute expertise and exchange of best practices for effective implementation of the United Nations mandate in safeguarding human rights in peaceful protest and assembly through United Nations forums, bilateral collaboration, capacity-building and training programs leveraging the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations country teams while respecting state sovereignty at all times;
5. *Encourages* that states follow the United Nations *Guidelines on Police Capacity-Building and Development*, particularly its focus on the inclusion of women, youth, and other underrepresented

groups' perspectives in the development of states' law enforcement training, ensuring the individuals most impacted by protest responses are included in decision-making processes;

6. *Recommends* establishing or promoting pre-existing regional forums, such as the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, the Doha Forum, and the Organization of American States Forum, and others, which allow Member States within a region to share relevant findings and suggestions for domestic action with each other by:
 - a. Specifying that these forums will be organized following the United Nations predetermined regional groups of Member States (African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, Western European and other States);
 - b. Acknowledging a Member State's right to determine how to address these issues domestically—in accordance with international law—regardless of the actions and suggestions of other states;
 - c. Requesting that minutes at regional forums be submitted as a report to both the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, illustrating progress, debate, and challenges arising from each forum;
 - d. Requesting that these forums follow guiding principles of inclusivity, facilitating participation from diverse societal groups, transparency, making debate contents and outcomes publicly accessible to foster trust and civic engagement, and responsiveness, by integrating public feedback into policy development;
 - e. Suggesting the implementation of a mediation platform where countries experiencing protests can voluntarily, respecting Member States' sovereignty, request assistance from a trained mediation force, such as regional mediators and human rights advisors, to prevent the violent escalation of protests;
7. *Promoting* greater accountability mechanisms, primarily voluntary annual reports for Member States by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to hold domestic law enforcement agencies accountable within the bounds of each nation's respective laws by:
 - i. Inviting Member States to optionally establish domestic accountability measures within the bounds of each Member State;
 - ii. Facilitating discussion revolving around the best practices, such as practices outlined in the United Nations *Guidelines on Police Capacity Building and Development*, tailored to each nation regarding accountability;
 - b. Recommending implementing the use of NGOs, and how they facilitate sustainable development as a neutral observer, establishing transparency initiatives to further accountability with regard to state sovereignty by:
 - i. Ensuring Member States have the ability to request the assistance of a variety of NGO observers to observe the upholding of human rights in peaceful protests

and assemblies, including both regional and international NGOs—for instance, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch;

- ii. Guaranteeing Member States the autonomy to select which NGOs these states believe would be the most appropriate, if the support of an NGO is desired;
9. *Recommends* that the use of AI surveillance technologies to ensure the safety of peaceful protests be governed by guiding regulatory frameworks along the lines of the United Nations High-level Committee on Management's *Framework for a Model Policy on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in United Nations System Organizations* by:
- a. Reiterating the right to privacy, especially restricting indiscriminate biometric surveillance in public spaces, including the untargeted scraping of facial data from public sources;
 - b. Emphasizing the importance of defined purpose, necessity, and proportionality, especially concerning real-time facial recognition systems, permitting their use only in exceptional circumstances such as the prevention of imminent threats or search for missing persons;
 - c. Further emphasizing the necessity of human autonomy and oversight, focusing on the principles of transparency and explainability, requiring that protestors and the general public be informed when AI surveillance is deployed and for what purpose.



Code: HRC/1/5

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Safeguarding Human Rights in Peaceful Protests and Assemblies

The Human Rights Council,

Recognizes the significance of the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), more precisely article 20 on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and article 19 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1966),

Recalls that the Human Rights Council (HRC) supports regional initiatives aimed at safeguarding human rights during protests and demonstrations, particularly the European Union (EU) *Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy* (2020–2024), which provides a framework for EU Member States to address restrictions on assemblies, with a particular focus on marginalized groups,

Fully aware that Amnesty International's 2021/2022 Annual Report communicates cases of excessive force against demonstrators that occurred in at least 85 countries and that violent attacks on protesters take place regularly in 80 of the countries for which data is available,

Acknowledges the importance of cooperation between citizens and the government in ensuring the right of peaceful protesting while maintaining public safety to foster a collaborative spirit to reduce violence and increase democratic engagement,

Bears in mind the HRC resolution 50/42 on the "Protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests during crisis situations" (2022) agenda item three, which underlines the growing trend of government-imposed restrictions on protests and the troubling use of unlawful force against peaceful protesters,

Welcoming the collaboration from the *Global Partnership for Education Fund* (GPE) to expand upon the educational knowledge of human rights within academic spaces,

Keeping in mind the principles of the United Nations *Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training* (2011),

Reaffirms the relevance of education through initiatives such as the Human Rights Education (HRE) course, which contributes to the growing outreach of human rights awareness, as reflected by Amnesty International's efforts that impacted over 5.9 million individuals worldwide in 2023, making a significant increase from the 4.15 million reached in 2022,

Taking into account the education offered by the Canadian Human Rights Foundations International Humans Rights Training Program (IHRTIP),

Acknowledges the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG) (quality education) in regards to achieving high-quality education on peaceful protesting and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) to provide access to justice, strong and inclusive institutions for all, and safeguarding human rights such as freedom of speech and assembly,

Recognizing the need for a plan of action for safety prevention in collaboration with the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund,

Taking note of the necessity for constructive feedback through the use of the HRC complaint procedure,

Having adopted HRC resolution 50/21 on “The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests” (2022), which establishes the *Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials*, and a Practical Toolkit based on international standards and best practices to assist law enforcement to engage in global and regional consultations and to develop specific technical and practical tools,

Conscious of the General Assembly resolution 78/213 on the “Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies,” (2023) protecting human rights through the use of digital technologies in the context of peaceful assemblies, to ensure universal human rights for all global citizens online and offline with the improvement of fundamental freedoms and protection of human rights,

Affirming the significance and need of the HRC resolution 47/23 (2021) in use with human rights and digital technologies,

Bearing in mind the assistance of a notification system to enhance and facilitate transparent dialogue between member states and citizens,

Desiring the help of the Red Cross, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), and the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR),

Recognizing the resources Doctors Without Borders provides in consideration of protestors’ safety,

Emphasizes the importance of establishing independent and impartial United Nations bodies, free from political influence, to oversee the acceptance or rejection of protest requests,

1. *Suggests* the report from HRC 47/23 of peaceful protests with a safe environment helping individuals offline and online with human rights in partnership with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to educate on aiding vulnerable populations on their human rights in safe protests and assembly by:
 - a. Promoting educational information such as online panels and vulgarized texts by volunteer experts from the United Nations Volunteers on the specific matter;
 - b. Considers the equal use of these practical resources for every Member State;
2. *Draws attention* to the implementation of educational programs on the line of those such as the IH RTP of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation - already active in Central Asian schools - in primary schools, by:
 - a. Offering children early education with curriculums surrounding freedom of speech and expression to better inform them of their rights by:
 - i. Forming and updating teachers on human rights education, with tests to ensure high-quality teaching on the matter;
 - ii. Integrating the curriculum of social studies, facilitating discussion with children’s books on people who host protests and assemblies and the importance of protecting human rights;

- b. Encouraging the development of a generation capable of identifying instances in which their rights are not being upheld;
- 3. *Further suggests* that the Special Rapporteur's Practical Toolkit for law enforcement officials, which encourages the engagement of Member States in global and regional consultations and the development of specific tools that may be utilized during protests and assembly, be expanded to include the education of protestors by:
 - a. Ensuring that protestors are aware of their rights and the best practices whilst peacefully protesting;
 - b. Offering pointers on safe and practical digital organizing and protesting to individuals who choose to participate in protests online;
- 4. *Encourages* Member States to integrate educational courses on the right to peaceful assembly and civil engagement among high schools, colleges, and universities aimed at enhancing awareness on issues, such as respect and civility to promote peaceful protests by:
 - a. Offering workshops, webinars, and seminars that are accessible for everyone, including marginalised communities such as refugees, people with disabilities, and people with limited internet access;
 - b. Noting the availability of the "Human Rights Education" information effort, based on the principles of the United Nations *Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training*, proposed by Amnesty International;
 - c. Working in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Education Fund for the whole duration of the seminars' program;
- 5. *Recommends* that Member States diminish the use of lethal force during demonstrations and implement preventative safety measures by:
 - a. Adopting a three-year training program, known as the Human Rights Training Action Plan (HRTAP), for law enforcement officers which includes:
 - i. Volunteer efforts in collaboration with the Red Cross and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR);
 - ii. Educating the handling of large crowds without the use of excessive force and promoting human rights;
 - iii. Working in collaboration with UN bodies like the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund for the whole duration of the training program;
 - b. Utilizing information submitted by protest organizers through a submission platform such as the HRC Complaint Procedure to:
 - i. Allocate resources, such as de-escalation forces, to protect the safety of protestors;

- ii. Recommend a set perimeter for protests by implementing the temporary closure of specific streets or intersections to create safe, spacious zones for demonstrations;
 - iii. Support security screening procedures such as the use of metal detectors and manual security checks to prevent the presence of weapons and reduce the need for police to carry or deploy lethal weapons;
- 6. *Suggests* the creation of a trust network between higher education students and teachers/authorities, seeing as students who are pursuing a higher level of education are more likely to actively participate in protests through social media platforms by:
 - a. Ensuring that higher education students feel supported in their protest activities through a digital channel of communications through the:
 - i. Implementation of peer-to-peer chats and discussion boards;
 - ii. Creation of forums with trained moderators such as teachers and counselors;
 - iii. Formation of digital channels for submitting concerns or asking legal questions;
 - iv. Collaboration with civic society, giving higher education students the possibility to report injustices through the HRC Complaint Procedure;
- 7. *Encourages* the implementation of a notification system that will enhance and facilitate transparent dialogue between Member States and their citizens by:
 - a. Establishing government channels such as online platforms, emails, and in-person submissions for protest organizers to submit information that will detail:
 - i. The nature of the protest, the intended route for marches, the expected number of participants, the purpose of the protest, the start and end times of the protest;
 - ii. Specific requests for safety measures or police presence from protest organizers;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to initiate clear and timely response procedures once protest information is submitted by the protest organizers by:
 - i. Designating local or regional authorities responsible for reviewing and responding to submissions within 7 days of the original submission and at minimum 48 hours before the intended date of the protest;
 - ii. Ensuring that protest organizers receive written confirmation, requests for additional information or clarification, and the decision on any requested safety measures;
 - iii. Creating a public-access calendar or system that displays upcoming approved protests to promote awareness, coordination, and public safety;
- 8. *Suggesting* that Member States consider the notification system as a tool for authorities to receive enough time to assess public safety concerns, allocate resources, and determine if specific measures are required, such as road closures and extra police presence by:

- a. Establishing a two-part, securely encrypted notification system that will require the government's response to the protest organizer's notification submission form detailing:
 - i. The names and number of all law enforcement personnel that will be supervising the protest;
 - ii. The weapons that law enforcement personnel will have on them during their supervision at the protests, which will depend on the expected number of participants and the nature of the protest;
 - iii. All provisions the government has concluded in order to peacefully assess protests, explaining how it has contributed towards ensuring maximum safety for all people, considering non-participants and by-standers;
 - b. Suggesting conditional approvals in which governments may propose parameters for location restrictions of certain government buildings or sensitive areas, duration restrictions, and requirements for maintaining public order and general safety;
- 9. *Encourages* Member States with significant challenges related to governing entities to collaborate with UN bodies regarding the responsibility of managing protest requests to enhance accountability and public trust in the process by:
 - a. Including third-party bodies to assess the legitimacy of protest requests, including the intended route for marches, the number of participants, the purpose of the protest, and any specific safety measures or police presence needed, affirming:
 - i. The support of UNHCR, and calls upon the cooperation between the government and civilians advocating on the right to participate in public life and emphasising mediation efforts by facilitating the communication between civilians and government officials, ensuring that third-party bodies are resourced with adequate funding and staff, operating with full independence from political influence, to enhance accountability and public trust in the process;
 - b. Monitoring the implementation of protest management to ensure the protection of protestors' rights and the overall safety of public spaces, which::
 - i. Supports the intervention of Doctors Without Borders and recognizes their capability to intervene promptly to maintain protestors' safety, draws attention to witnesses' protection during protests, and publishes reports to the authorities to respect human rights;
- 10. *Reiterates* that the laws protecting authorities and legislation regarding the practices of authorities be reviewed to prevent police brutality and abuse of power.